

BOOK REVIEWS

CALIFORNIA MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

ALL ABOUT ALLERGY—M. Coleman Harris, M.D., and Norman Shure, M.D. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N.J. (07632), 1969. 368 pages, \$7.95.

This book is intended more for the interested layman or the especially curious patient than for physicians, but should prove of interest to many of the medical profession nevertheless. It explains in considerable detail and a very readable manner most aspects of current theory and practice in a rapidly expanding field of considerable public interest.

Advances in knowledge and delays in the various steps in publication, however, are such that some of the more exciting recent knowledge in the field of allergy is not mentioned, such as the identification of the skin-test antibody as IgE, the dangers of the locked-lung syndrome from excessive use of isoproterenol and similar pocket sprays, and the newer evidence of benefit resulting from injection therapy (suppression of reagin formation and decrease in histamine release).

The pediatric allergist may be disappointed in finding no mention of the tension-fatigue syndrome while less common things such as allergy as a cause of epilepsy are discussed. The environmentalist may object to the acceptance of Dust-Seal spray in place of allergen-proof encasings on mattresses and box springs.

A book as comprehensive as this is certain to have some such disappointments. This volume has fewer than most and in general can be recommended as a readable guide to the layman, medical student, and the general practitioner.

WILLIAM C. DEAMER, M.D.

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STROKE—The Condition and the Patient—John E. Sarno, M.D., Associate Professor, Rehabilitation Medicine, New York University School of Medicine; Director, Outpatient Services, Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, New York University Medical Center, New York City; and Martha Taylor Sarno, M.A., Assistant Professor, Clinical Rehabilitation Medicine, New York University School of Medicine; Director, Speech Pathology Services, Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, New York University Medical Center, New York City. McGraw-Hill Book Company, 330 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. (10036), 1969. 213 pages, \$6.95.

By providing answers to 225 questions which might be asked by the family or close friends of an individual who had suffered a stroke, the authors seek to impart the understanding and guidance we, as good physicians, should give to individual parties concerned. The answers are couched in the simplest of terms and the authors avoid controversy by reminding the reader that each case is different than any other and for particular answers one still must rely on the personal physician. The questions, grouped by chapters, deal with the cause of stroke, its physical consequences, the speech disorders, intellectual and emotional aspects of stroke, rehabilitation, and finally the prognosis. As is to be ex-

pected, the Sarnos find some difficulty in explaining that rehabilitative measures as carried out by numerous disciplines is so important on the one hand, but on the other "the extent of recovery is not dependent upon treatment but on the degree of healing which occurs in the brain. The prince and the pauper have the same chance for recovery." They then state, quite significantly, that "we have known of some families who have been unable for geographic or economic reasons to engage the help of an outsider and who have done a magnificent job of rehabilitation at home using some published materials designed for the purpose (see Appendix) and some ingenious methods of their own design." This last quotation is in connection with the speech disorders associated with stroke.

No aspect of stroke is receiving more attention now than the care of the patient with aphasia and it is noted, quite properly, that "nurses are ideally suited to substitute for their colleagues from other therapies." This again is in connection with the care of patients in remote areas. It is obvious that the Sarnos appreciate the contribution of the volunteer in the care of the stroke patient.

This volume will answer a great many questions for family and friends. Its value to the physician might be to remind him of the anxieties such people have and prompt him to volunteer helpful answers or at least take the time to provide answers when asked to do so. The appearance of the book itself is further evidence of the increasing interest in this third most common cause of death in America. With 2,000,000 post-stroke patients living in the United States, it is anticipated a great many individuals will be interested in this volume.

ROBERT C. COMBS, M.D.

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EVOLUTION AND COMPARATIVE MORPHOLOGY OF THE LYMPHATIC SYSTEM—Otto Frederic Kampmeier, Ph.D., M.D., Formerly, Professor and Chairman, Department of Anatomy, University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois; and formerly, Chairman, Department of Anatomy, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, California. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, 301-327 East Lawrence Avenue, Springfield, Ill. (62703), 1969. 620 pages, \$29.50.

Animal studies in the 19th and early 20th centuries in comparative morphology and physiology were in the mainstream of biologic interest. The shift of interest since that time to studies involving animal experimentation and molecular biology developed before knowledge of the lymphatic system could be integrated into a unified body. Accounts of the lymphatic system in textbooks of comparative anatomy and physiology consequently remained meager and promoted the belief that the system is found only in higher vertebrates. The intent of this book is to correct these deficiencies and to collate modern knowledge of the lymphatic system into a coher-